

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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Dedication of The DIG on April 24th! Marcia Strader

The Dalles Imagination Garden will be dedicated during Cherry Festival on Friday, April 24th from 2-4pm. On March 26th, approximately 130 invitations were mailed to supporters, sponsors, and other interested parties. A special thank you to Lee Bryant, who designed and produced the invitations! Jamie Crouse is the coordinator for the event. Thank you to all who signed up for the various tasks to make this celebration a success! Thank you also to Ronnie Smith, who is heading up the refreshments section. If you want to volunteer or if you have questions about the event, please contact Jamie Crouse. We hope all Master Gardeners will attend!!

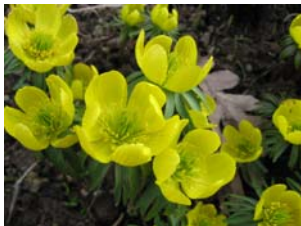
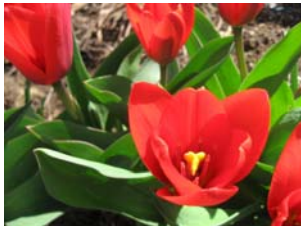
On Saturday, April 4th, at 9am, The DIG will hold a work party to construct eight raised beds. There will be no electricity for this construction. If you have cordless tools available (especially drills & screw-drivers!), please bring them. Please also bring newspaper, shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows for mixing soil. For further information on the work day, please contact Charlotte Link.

On March 23rd, The Dalles City Council awarded The DIG \$2000 to support the construction of the garden shed and necessary fencing for two sides of the garden. The Council also approved the use of a dump truck and driver so that we may transport donated soil, compost, and manure to The DIG site. Mark McCavic, TDWHS Building and Construction teacher, has donated several yards of soil for use at The DIG. Cheri Austin did the soil test and it will need some amendments. Tim Dahle, a local orchardist, has donated several yards of certified organic compost and Carolyn Wright has donated goat manure. These components will be picked up with the city dump truck, delivered to the site, and mixed there for the raised beds, berms, and "Farm" area. EverSummer Gardens, owner of the hydroponic greenhouse and the empty lot next to The DIG, has generously donated the use of the empty lot for staging, soil component storage, and parking. The DIG is very grateful for everyone's support.

On April 1st, we will give a presentation to the Wasco County Court. On April 2nd, we will be giving a presentation to Covenant Christian, a private school.

Day camp will be held at The DIG from 9 am - 12 noon on June 22 - 26, 2009. Thank you to all who signed up during the Project Fair for this volunteer activity. We need a project leader to develop daily programs; of course, volunteer efforts will count towards payback time. Already, we have resources from our previous Jr. Master Gardener program, as well as an activity book provided by Parks & Rec. They anticipate that approximately 10 students will sign up for this gardening program. A Parks & Rec. representative will be on site during camp. Please contact Marcia Strader for further information.

On June 22nd, The DIG will be a field site stop for participants in the Oregon Forests: Pathways to Student Success conference that is being hosted in The Dalles this year by North Wasco County School District 21. This is an annual Pacific Northwest conference for teachers. We will give a brief discussion of the mission and plans for The DIG, and participants in the conference will tour the site while we are conducting the Parks & Recreation day camp.



[Eranthis hyemalis](#)



art students working on tile mosaic for The DIG



marking out location of shed at The DIG

From the President – Lee Bryant

Now that we have spent 7 weeks learning about gardening it time to get outside. Did you know that April is National Garden Month? As we plant our gardens this year let's think about planting one or two extra rows so that we will be able to share.

Gardening: It's good for you

Gardening is fun and rewarding, and it feels good to be around green, growing things. But did you know there are measurable health benefits to gardening and enjoying plants? Here are some facts based on research in horticultural therapy:

- Simply looking at trees and vegetation reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and relieves muscle tension.
- In one study, women 50 and older who gardened at least once a week had higher bone density than those who jogged, walked, swam or did aerobics.
- Physicians in ancient Egypt prescribed walks in a garden for the mentally disturbed.
- People working at computer in an office with plants were 12% more productive and less stressed than people doing the same job in an office without plants.
- Gardening can produce endorphin highs similar to those experienced when jogging and cycling.
- Working gardens and natural scenes were used to maintain morale on the Soviet space station Mir.
- A study of British Columbia residences for Alzheimer patients showed that, at the residences with gardens, the rate of violent incidents declined by 19% over two years. At the non-garden residences, the violent incidents increased by 680%. For the elderly patients in particular, gardening can stimulate all the senses, by providing interesting sights, tactile experiences, fragrances, sounds, and delicious flavors.

Given all this evidence, it's no surprise that one study concludes: "Those who are involved in gardening find life more satisfying and feel they have more positive things happening in their lives." (*Thank you to the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association for the list above*).

Just a note about the Project Fair - there are still a few spots for project leaders, including the Wasco County Fair community booth. This is a way for Master Gardeners to let the folks know that we are here and working. The Theme for this year's fair is "Happy Birthday Oregon, 150 years of Oregon Dreams." I think that has a lot of possibilities for a wonderful booth.

I like this poem Sheri Esquivias shared with me that she found among her grandmother's things. It says a lot about a lot of things.

"Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree,
discussing things as they're said to be,

Said one to the other: Now listen, you two,
there's a certain rumor that can't be true,

That man descended from our noble race,
why the very idea is purely a disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,
starved her babies, or ruined her life.

And you'll never see a mother monkey
leave her babies with others to bunk,

Or pass them on from one to another,
till hardly they know who is their mother

And another thing you'll never see –
a monkey build a fence around his coconut tree,

And let all the coconuts go to waste,
forbidding all other monkeys a taste.

Why if I build a fence around my coconut tree,
starvation would force you to steal from me,

And another thing a monkey won't do -
go out at night and go on a stew,

And use a gun or club or knife,
to take some other poor monkey's life.

Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,
but, brother, he did descend from us."

Author unknown

Extension Cord Lynn E. Long, OSU Extension Horticulturist

Inject some instant spring color into your home landscape with annuals. Now that April has arrived, many nursery and garden stores have large stocks of annual flowers on display.

Annual flowers set off an area like no other landscape plant. They come in a wide array of colors, perfect for any garden. Most annuals bloom throughout the spring and summer, but die in the fall with the first hard frost.

Examples include marigolds, petunias, snapdragons, pansies, summer dahlias and candytufts. Annuals are ideal in beds and borders, or set among newly planted shrubs. They can also be grown in window boxes, outdoor planters, patio tubs and hanging baskets.

Although flowering annuals can be grown from seed, most people buy them as bedding plants from local nurseries. Even annuals grown in the smallest pots will establish and grow quickly once the temperatures start to warm.

When buying plants, look for sturdy, clean, well-branched specimens. Pansies are already in bloom when they go on sale, but with other annuals, look for those just coming into bud. Strong buds indicate a healthy plant that will bloom prolifically shortly after planting.

Be sure to keep the roots of bedding plants damp, especially if you have to hold them for a few days before planting, like I always do. It seems that I am never ready to plant when I get home from the nursery. I always store them in a protected area and make sure that they are kept moist. I water them again just before planting. In fact, soaking the roots, while in the pot, in a vat of water just prior to planting helps to insure that the root ball is thoroughly wet.

It is a good idea to apply some fertilizer to the soil immediately before planting. Work in a fertilizer containing phosphorus, preferably a 5-10-5 formulation. Additional light applications of fertilizer can be sprinkled around each plant and worked into the soil at five- to six-week intervals through the early summer and watered in.

As the annuals bloom, the flowers can be cut for bouquets, or simply enjoyed on the plant. However, as the flowers begin to fade, they should be removed from the plant to encourage new flowering. Removing spent flowers will encourage a continuous show of color throughout the summer and into the fall.

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Spring Fair- Janet Probstfield

The OSU Wasco County Master Gardener's are presenting a Spring Fair on Saturday, May 9th from 9am to 3pm at City Park on Union Street in The Dalles.

This fair will feature for sale pre-planted pots, hanging baskets as well as individual plants of vegetables, herbs, sedums and other annuals. The Juvenile residents of NORCOR, KIDZ for Klimate, were instrumental in starting from seed, with the assistance of Master Gardeners, these plants in their greenhouse. These vegetables and ornamental plant varieties were especially selected for our own soil and weather conditions.

The fair will also feature plant education, a plant clinic, demonstrations, a children's booth plus other talent from our area and refreshments. Old wood picking ladders will be for sale that can be transformed into trellises, arbors, bean supports and planters.

Please join us on Saturday, May 9th at the Fair!

Contact Peggy Peterson to volunteer to help with the Spring Fair. We will be running a plant clinic, providing instruction for educational spots, setting up & taking down the plant sale, plus manning the plant sale. Please also help by contributing plants that are extras from your garden or you have started. Present & tag them well!

CGMGA Spring Plant Sale

The Central Gorge Master Gardener's Spring Plant Sale runs from 9am to 3pm on May 9th, in The Learning Garden at the OSU Extension grounds, 2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, OR. We will have a good variety of heirloom vegetables, annual and perennial flowers, trees and shrubs. Come early for the best selection!

Margo Dameier, CGMG

Master Gardener Field Trip Wednesday May 13, 2009

J & K GROWERS -- Dallesport, WA and AZURE FARM -- Dufur, Oregon

8:30 a.m. Depart: The Dalles Marina (I-84 exit 85)
 8:45 a.m. Arrive: J&K Growers, Dallesport
 10:00 a.m. Depart: J&K Growers
 10:15 a.m. Arrive: Dufur City Park- Rest Stop
 10:45 a.m. Depart: Dufur
 11:00 a.m. Arrive: Azure Farm
 12:30 p.m. Depart: Azure Farm
 12:45 p.m. Lunch in Dufur (optional)

Call Garry Peterson if you have questions or need transportation at 541 296 5941.

Quarterly Meeting April 14th

Ann Kramer of Gorge Grown Food Network will be our featured speaker at the Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th. The meeting will be at Barbara Bailey's, 3325 Dry Hollow Lane (we went there for the pruning class). The meeting will start at 6pm; please bring some finger food to share.

Directions: On the east side of town take Dry Hollow Road to Dry Hollow Lane, veer right on DH Lane and turn right at the red mailbox. From the west take Mt. Hood St. and turn left on Skyline, follow Skyline then veer left on Olney Rd, at end of Olney turn right on Dry Hollow Road and follow directions above.

Molasses – Ginger Cookies

2½ cups unbleached flour	3 ounces unsalted butter
½ tsp salt	1 cup light brown sugar, packed
2 tsp baking soda	1 large egg
1 tsp ground ginger	¼ cup molasses (light)
1 tsp cinnamon	granulated sugar to roll cookies in
½ tsp cloves	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Sift together flour, salt, baking soda, and spices; set aside. Beat the butter and brown sugar together until smooth. Add the egg and molasses and beat until perfectly smooth. Gradually add the dry ingredients and beat until just incorporated. Put about 1 cup of sugar in a shallow bowl or plate. Make 2-3 dozen balls, roll in sugar and place on cookie sheet; bake for 8 minutes.

Carolyn Wright

South Wasco County Rose Pruning Clinic Lauretta Piatt

On Tuesday March 24th, seven Master Gardeners and one garden club member attended a rose pruning clinic in Maupin. These rose gardens are located at the Maupin city hall, the Evangelical Church and the Maupin City garden at Henry's.

The pruning clinic was lead by Lauretta Piatt and attended by Jack Archer, Anna Nolen, Lee Clark, Corinne Clark, Emilou Ely, and Lois Nelson.

The weather was cool, but after getting to work we all warmed up and now the rose gardens look like someone cares about them again. Between working the three gardens, we were able to stop in at the church kitchen for a hot cup of coffee and then continued the pruning job.

The roses at the City garden at Henry's needed some extra care. We removed a lot of stems to open up the plants for sun and air flow as one plant had the start of a mildew problem.

After the gardens were all pruned, the Clarks opened their home to all of us for snacks and the time for us to review the test. We also took time to review the Seeds and Soil program. We had a good work day and accomplished many tasks.



Mini-College 2009 Lana Tepfer

Save the date! This summer from August 5-8 Master Gardeners from all over the state will go to Corvallis for the 2009 Gardeners Mini-College. Some will arrive early on Tues. night so they can attend the leadership forum on Wed. morning.

After a box lunch the annual O.M.G.A. meeting will be held. That evening there will be a get-together dinner and program of some kind. Door prizes will be awarded after dinner.

Thursday and Friday mornings will include a general session and then educational classes or workshops. I believe there is a garden tour on Thurs. night (not yet confirmed.)

More classes on Friday and an awards banquet that evening. There are optional classes on Sat. a.m. for a small additional fee and then we will disburse at noon.

In addition there will be a large silent auction, door prizes at the general sessions and banquet and educational displays by various other chapters

Chapter sales will have everything from MG aprons, T-shirts, hats, journals, calendars and misc. items. There will be a seed exchange and if you find seed pods in your garden while cleaning up this spring please call Lana Tepfer if you can donate them for the exchange.

Tuition is actually down \$10 this year and a discount will be offered to anyone registering early. Full tuition, which includes all meals, dorm housing, all classes and activities is just \$245 for the 3 days. With more people taking smaller trips this year this is an ideal way to network with other gardeners while enhancing your garden education.

A raffle will be held to raise funds for the Send-A-Friend scholarship fund. \$1,200 is available this year. No chapter can receive more than \$200. If you would like to apply for a partial scholarship or can make a donation to this fund please contact Lana Tepfer. Talk to other Master Gardeners who have attended past mini-colleges and hear, first hand, their favorite activities.

There is a need for volunteers at mini-college. Ronnie Smith will be a volunteer at large to assist where needed. They will also need lots of help with the silent auction and, as always, Wasco County will need help with the door prize operation.

Most chapters bring and set up a display about what their group is doing related to the theme of gardening sustainability. We need someone who can design, bring and set up a display for our chapter. So if you are attending mini-college and are a little artistic we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Lee Bryant or Lana Tepfer.

The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

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Officers

President – Lee Bryant
President Elect – Barbara Bailey
Secretary – Candy Armstrong
Treasurer – Cheri Austin
Historian – Ronnie Smith
OMGA Rep – Lana Tepfer
Alternate OMGA Rep –
Lauretta Piatt

OSU Extension Staff

Lynn Long

Find Us Online

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

Hamburger Vegetable Soup

1 to 1-1/4 pound of 4% fat hamburger
1 med. onion, diced

Brown the hamburger and onion together.
Meanwhile, in a large crockpot add the following:
1 14.5 oz. can of Italian -style diced, stewed tomatoes
with basil and the liquid
1 8 oz. can of tomato sauce and one can of water
3 15 oz. cans of mixed vegetables with their juice (the
kind that has diced potatoes and carrots too.)
1 11 oz. can of whole kernel corn
1 15 oz. can of kidney beans, rinsed and drained
A pinch of oregano

Add the cooked hamburger and diced onion. Add more
water if you like lots of broth. I do not add salt as I feel
there is enough in the vegetable juice.
Cook on high at least 1 hour and then leave on med. for
3-4- hours. (This could also be done quicker in a stove-
top pan but it is so handy in a crockpot).
Lana Tepfer

Calendar

April 7, 21	1pm	The DIG Meeting*, all welcome Extension Office Meeting Room
April 14	2pm	Executive Board Meeting, all MGs welcome
April 14	6pm	Quarterly Meeting at Barbara Bailey's, see article
April 19	10-4	Wildflower Show, American Legion, Mosier
April 24	2-4	Dedication of The DIG , all welcome
April 25		Cherry Festival, The Dalles
April 25	start 9am	Plant Sale, The Dalles Art Center, 4 th St.
April 25		Hazardous Waste Collection in Maupin
April 27		Articles due for May newsletter*
May 2		Hazardous Waste Collection, The Dalles*
May 2		Wagons & Wildflowers, Col. Hills State Park
May 9	9-3	Spring Fair & Plant Sale , City Park, TD*
May 9	9-3	Central Gorge MG's Spring Plant Sale, HR
May 9		Hazardous Waste Collection, Hood River
May 16	10-12noon	SOLV's Take Care of Oregon Day, The DIG
May 16		Hazardous Waste Collection, Moro
May 23		Hazardous Waste Collection, Dufur

*Activities or projects offering payback hour opportunities

South County News, Emilou Ely

Hi from South County, Hwy 216. Thursday,
March 26, sunny and beautiful, I spotted
some grass widows (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*)
just starting to bloom. They are so beauti-
ful and will be in full bloom for at least one
whole week. If any of you want to take a
drive and see some beautiful wild flowers,
just venture this way. There are thousands
blooming in the lower areas of the surround-
ing pastures. Friday evening. Oops, I think
we are in for some more cold and wet
weather, if we can believe the weatherman!



sagebrush buttercup